



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021

Time: 7:00-8:45p

Location via Zoom: <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/91073189861>

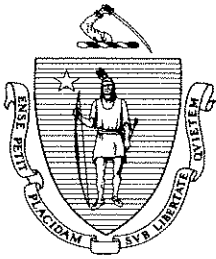
Passcode: 343396

[Program Updates](#)

Agenda

1. Attendance, Remotely Conducted Open Meeting Ground Rules 7:00p-7:10p
2. Invocation from Arlington Poet Laureate **Steven Ratiner** 7:10-7:20p
In honor of **National Poetry Month**
3. For Approval: [March minutes](#) 7:20p-7:25p
4. For Discussion: **Budget Update** 7:25-7:45p
5. For Discussion: **Spring Programming Update** 7:45-8:15p
Utility Box Painting
Reflecting on the Pandemic with Nilou Moochhala
Heights Haiku
Go Out Doors
Parklet Beautification
Performance in Parklets and Parks
6. For Discussion: **Fundraising Update** 8:15-8:25
9. New Business 8:25-8:45p

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:00p



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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, G. L. c. 30A, § 20**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

WHEREAS, many important functions of State and Local Government are executed by "public bodies," as that term is defined in G. L. c. 30A, § 18, in meetings that are open to the public, consistent with the requirements of law and sound public policy and in order to ensure active public engagement with, contribution to, and oversight of the functions of government; and

WHEREAS, both the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health ("DPH") have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons; and

WHEREAS, low-cost telephone, social media, and other internet-based technologies are currently available that will permit the convening of a public body through virtual means and allow real-time public access to the activities of the public body; and

WHEREAS section 20 of chapter 30A and implementing regulations issued by the Attorney General currently authorize remote participation by members of a public body, subject to certain limitations;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

(1) A public body, as defined in section 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, is hereby relieved from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

Adequate, alternative means of public access shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of the public body. Such means may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while those activities are occurring. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access must provide for such participation.

A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the public.

A public body must offer its selected alternative means of access to its proceedings without subscription, toll, or similar charge to the public.

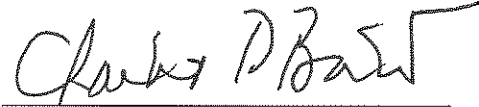
(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby suspended.

(3) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in sections (1) or (2) above shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided in section (2).

(4) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25 of chapter 30A and the Attorney General's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 6:40 PM this 12th day of
March, two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Charles" is written in a larger, more prominent script, followed by "D." and "Baker". The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: March 4, 2021

Time: 7:00-9:00p

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Tom Davison, Tom Formicola, Stewart Ikeda, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Beth Locke, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Christine Noah, Andrea Nicolay, Steve Poltorzkycki

Absent: Adria Arch, Christine Noah

Guests: Ali Carter, Nick Castellano (Grants Committee), Terry Holt

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm

1) ROLL CALL AND RULES OF REMOTE MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING COVID-19

2) APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

- Minutes unanimously approved as amended

3) NOMINATIONS

- Stewart Ikeda is nominated for another two-year term as Co-Chair or ACAC. A roll call vote of the present Commissioners was conducted, with all voting in the affirmative. Stewart Ikeda was re-elected by unanimous agreement of the Commissioners present.

4) UPDATE FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

- Stewart gave a report back on the Fin Comm meeting. The Commission made the case for the importance of the arts in community development and presented over twenty letters of support. There were several glowing letters from participants about *Persistence*, the community-based project of crocheting plastic bags into sculpture with Artist-in-Residence, Michelle Lougee, and several from non-profits talking about the impactful work of the non-profit convenings.
- Steve Poltorzkycki, Treasurer, was praised for an exemplary presentation. ACAC had been warned that we might face a 20% reduction this year, but instead were unanimously approved for \$30,000 this year.
- The Fin Comm requested the Commission's help in rebranding themselves and connecting with the community. They asked if they could participate in our non-profit volunteer activities and/or work with us on an art project. Cecily suggested they could use an Artist-in-Residence. Fin Comm could also make a presentation to Artlinks. They have trouble recruiting members. John Ellis is planning to write a feature about why he joined the Finance Committee.

5) UPDATE ABOUT ARTICLE 35 ZONING REGULATIONS

- Ali Carter, Director of Economic Development, reported on a series of zoning recommendations that came out of an economic analysis of the industrial zones. There has been discussion about needing to have more commercial properties in order to have a split tax rate and charge more to commercial properties. There are only 91 industrial parcels in the whole town, .7% of parcels and 1.2 % of taxable acreage. There is not much land, but it is 69 properties and about 71 million in value. There is warehousing, storage, moving, landscaping. Most are owner-occupied.
- Arlington has a relatively small job base compared to the rest of Middlesex County that consists of a lower job base with low salaries held by people from out of town, but industrial zones yield

higher-paying jobs. The increased value of the housing market is putting pressure on development.

- The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) is trying to include environmentally sensitive measures and artist studios. They are looking for fewer cars and more bikes. There is so much pressure on the housing market but there is also the need for mixed-use development. DPCD is keeping artists' live-work space in the mix. It is unclear whether a two-thirds supermajority will be needed.
- Questions asked pertained to whether artists' mixed-use space would be allowed, if there could be tax incentives to attract this type of use, and whether zoning allows for building cultural spaces such as maker spaces, artist studios, and flexible space. Ali will follow up with specific answers to these questions.

6) SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

- The DPCD is working on a long-term sustainable transportation plan. It was sent ahead for review and Ali asked if there were any comments. The only one was whether it could include artists on the planning and design teams. Ali indicated that it would vary by project.

7) NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

- Last year we had started talking to the Poet Laureate about special projects National Poetry month. We ended up landing on the Red Letter Poems for feasibility's sake, which turned out to be the perfect project during COVID. The poems have been sent out weekly for a year. Steven Ratiner, plans to continue the poems, but after the year mark, he will send them through his own email list and it will no longer be posted on the ACAC and Library websites.
- The question was raised as to whether the Poet Laureate was one of ACAC's programs. The answer is yes, because we fund it and we have a Commissioner on the Poet Laureate Committee. The Committee, however, is independent. We do feel it is within reason to ask Steven to share his email list and to ask people to sign up for the Arts Arlington newsletter. Lidia will talk to him about this.
- The library and Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA) is co-sponsoring a poetry open mic on April 7th. Local poets will be invited to perform.
- The Heights Haiku projects will have its first workshop during Poetry month. Cecily will send the listing to Anna Litten at the Library.

7) SPRING PROGRAM PLANNING

- Artlinks and ACA sent a survey was sent to artists to get a sense of people's comfort level with performing indoors. Though the survey was sent a number of times, only 10 artists responded. Artists feel comfortable participating online and in small gatherings. They will only do online gallery openings. They want to see more workshops to enhance their skill level and have exhibits in town they can share with people. As far as artist opportunities, they are looking for more murals, art in environment, reuse of objects instead of throwing away, and more public art. They loved Artlinks' recent artist-poetry collaboration and there is also lots of interest in outdoor events. They are looking to ACAC to be stewards of what they can accomplish during the pandemic time.

8) UPDATE FROM COVID RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TASK FORCE

- DPCD and ACAC are working together to be a bridge between the state regulations and what is available to people for planning performance outside right now, such as ACAC's Live Arts street performance programs. These guidelines will be brought to the health department before they are brought to the Select Board. The guidelines will then govern what we do and serve as guidelines for other organizations.

9) FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

- The MCC Cultural District Grant is focused on the Parklet orange barriers, utility box painting, performance in those areas. \$7500. Cecily is doing a call for artists for the orange barriers.
- ACAC received an LCC grant for \$1050 for the Arlington Heights Haiku project
- ACAC is working with the Chamber to do an appeal to 20-30 businesses to support the arts in the business districts. This is an opportunity to make an approach for first gifts. People who have

- not been negatively impacted by COVID are looking for ways to help. The Chamber has also initiated a beautification Committee.
- The name of the appeal should be Sparkle Arlington or Sparkle Up Arlington.
 - Christine Noah wrote a fabulous appeal letter
 - The end of COVID is a great time to rebrand ourselves and focus on a thriving main street commercial district to attract new businesses to our empty storefronts.
 - The focus is on participation at any level with suggested amounts, rather than having tiers of giving. Gifts of any amount are meaningful and will receive mention in press releases where appropriate, the Arts Arlington home page and newsletter, and social media.
 - This appeal will follow ACA's appeal so as to give space between them and avoid confusion.
 - Preliminary discussion about the Chairful fundraiser and when to hold it this year. Adria will come to a fundraising committee to talk about it.

10) UPDATE FROM THE GRANTS COMMITTEE

- The 2020 report to the MCC has been approved.
- For the 2021 year, \$34,543.00 were requested and \$17,774 granted
- 24 programs were funded. The largest grant was 1164.00 - True Story theatre
The smallest grant was \$280 for hip hop for seniors
- This year, the grant guidelines specifically requested work that spoke to themes of diversity equity, access and inclusion. It is not clear that the number of programs on those themes increased from previous years.
- Tory Fair was one of the grantees. She has a very interesting project with a wheel, a frame and a camera that we should keep in mind in case it ties into any of our programs.

Meeting adjourned 8:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

Next meeting: April 1, 7pm



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Updates - DRAFT

April 2021

For the ACAC meeting held on [Zoom here](#) (Passcode 343396), we again anticipate spending time on required "ground rules" preamble for virtual meetings, and a shortlist of items in need of voting. In keeping with Open Meetings, these notes, [April agenda](#), and "Executive Order on Remote Participation" will be published publicly at least 48-hours before the meeting. We will circulate a Registration Process for the Meeting.

Please feel free to annotate any item with brief relevant clarification or correction, add any new business, and ESPECIALLY NOTE if any committee item entails a significant budget request, procedural change, or other action that requires a vote.

PRELIMINARY TO MEETING

Review this document and add comments, corrections, new business.

Review [last month's Meeting's minutes](#) and be prepared to vote on modification or approval.

All Commissioners review and understand Town's "[Remote Participation Meeting Checklist](#)" and guidelines for Zoom meetings, collected in a Google Drive folder, [ACAC Remote Open Meetings Notes and Guidelines](#).

RESOURCES

[ACAC Bylaws](#) | [ACAC on Town Website](#) | [ACAC Operations Plan](#) | [ACAC Annual Report](#)

COMMITTEE, PROJECT, AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

FY21 Commission Meetings Schedule: First Thursdays at 7PM unless quorum can't be attained. The next meeting is scheduled is **May 6 at 7PM**.

Spring Reopening Planning: Based on work by **Tom Formicola**, **Cristin Canterbury Bagnall** and **Ali Carter**, ACAC submitted to the Town Manager a proposed framework that would allow for the phased resumption of covid-safe public art and performance in select town spaces. It should provide a basis for detailed discussion by the Parks, Health and Planning Departments and the Select Board on providing arts and community cultural activities consistent with state reopening guidelines.

Arlington Cultural District – Loop Labs and **Ed Gordon's** self-guided tour of the ACD is in advanced stages of development. A portion of the \$7,500 COVID mitigation grant for Cultural Districts from the Mass Cultural Council is available to enable the bolstering of our technological infrastructure for rolling out the self-guided, cloud-based multimedia tour. **Beth Locke** is leading planning for the tour's promotions.

Public Art Master Plan: **Stephanie Marlin-Curiel** has drafted a public art survey to launch the community engagement process and spreadsheet of research on other public art plans. Stephanie has submitted drafts to the Commission Co-chairs and will discuss at May meeting.

Poet Laureate – Steven Ratiner has been publishing his “**Red Letter Poem**” series for a year now, and continues to do so. ACAC congratulates him on this milestone -- however unexpected. Ratiner will continue to release RLPs via his sizeable email list and ACAC will encourage the public to subscribe. ACAC also will support Ratiner's proposed Zoom-based **Poetry Open Mic** in April as part of the celebration of **National Poetry Month**. ACAC has invited Ratiner to share a poem as an invocation for its April meeting, heralding Poetry Month.

Fundraising: Will present at April meeting.

Town Planning: 2021 [Annual Town Meeting Draft Zoning Bylaw Amendments](#), including a zoning bylaw amendment including **artists' mixed use in industrial zones**, which is currently part of Article 35 on the [warrant](#) for Town Meeting this spring.

ArtLinks: Next Artlinks event will be on Wednesday April 7, 2021 at noon with Irish step dance with **Rebecca McGowan**. Artlinks has been in touch with members of the Finance Committee to invite **John Ellis** to give a presentation on Finance and the Arts in a future meeting.

Partnerships and Nonprofits: ACA hosted another well-received nonprofit convening on Zoom on March 24.

Community Engagement: ACAC's 2020 artist in residence, **Michelle Lougee**, appeared March 20 with fellow artist **Samantha Fields** and town Recycling Coordinator **Charlotte Milan** in an environmental-themed public artist talk, **Waste Not, Want Not**, co-presented by the Library, Sustainable Arlington, Zero Waste Arlington and the Boston Sculptors Gallery. Lougee graciously invited several Arlington volunteers and ACAC members to a special private viewing of her continuing “plarn art” work at the **Boston Sculptors Gallery**. Poet **Jessie Brown** will lead three workshops in advance of a **Haiku Project** in the Heights. Poet **Charles Coe** will lead a discussion about race and a writing workshop as part of a series of occasional talks by BIPOC artists. **Youth Banners** “Protest and Lifting Voices” should be installed soon. Calls for

Proposals for both **Utility Box** art and the **Go Out Doors - Neighbors** project are underway. **Cecily Miller** will provide updates to April meeting.

Grants Committee: Has announced recipients of grants for this year.

Marketing: The ongoing effort to help town entities and artists to make use of free ArtsArlington and ArtsBoston listings continues to pay off; many more programmers are using ArtsBoston and ArtsArlington to list their events and classes again. **Terry Holt** and **Stewart Ikeda** have been creating new long-term media planning calendars to accommodate the expected increase in resumed, “post-covid” arts programming around town.

Task force on Cultural Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility: **Stephanie Marlin-Curiel** received a proposal for a potential DEIA-focused learning opportunities for ACAC commissioners and volunteers, as well as town nonprofit arts and culture organizations. Several ACAC members attended the **Antiracism Coalition** presented by **StageSource** on March 29.

REQUESTED NEW BUSINESS